

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Remarks Regarding Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-15 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-16 of copending application. Solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, and without addressing the merits of the Examiner's assertions, Applicants have followed the Examiner's suggestion and filed a terminal disclaimer with this Response. Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance in view of the terminal disclaimer and earnestly request that all the claims in this Application be allowed.

Remarks Regarding Claims 16 and 17


The Office Action of Month Day, 2002 does not contain any rejection of claims 16 and 17 but there is also no indication that the claims are allowable. Acknowledgment of the allow-ability of claims 16 and 17 is requested.

Conclusion

Having fully responded to the pending Office Action, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit an early Notice to that effect. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if additional information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
Eric Sinn
Reg. No. 40,177

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100